
MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Michael Smith, Public Works Director

Date: 1/23/2012

Subject: **Approval of Memorandum of Understanding for Regional Traffic Operations. (Michael Smith)**

ITEM DESCRIPTION

Approval of Memorandum of Understanding (Attachment "A") between the City of Dunwoody, the City of Sandy Springs, DeKalb County and the Perimeter Community Improvement Districts (PCIDs) for Regional Traffic Operations.

BACKGROUND

For nearly two years Dunwoody, Sandy Springs, DeKalb County and the PCIDs have been pursuing opportunities to improve traffic flow in the Perimeter area by optimizing signal timing and coordinating traffic signals. The PCIDs have invested heavily in the communications infrastructure necessary to connect, coordinate and monitor signals across corridors. Through this investment, DeKalb has the ability to monitor signals on Ashford Dunwoody Road for malfunctions. Sandy Springs has improved signal timing on Perimeter Center West and Roswell Road in partnership with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and has built a traffic management center. For its part, Dunwoody has participated in GDOT's signal maintenance program on Ashford Dunwoody Road and completed retiming of the signals in Dunwoody Village.

While these efforts have resulted in improvements on individual corridors, traffic congestion is a regional phenomenon that operates across corridors and jurisdictional boundaries. Recognizing the inefficiencies inherent in a jurisdiction by jurisdiction approach, GDOT has created a Regional Traffic Operations Program (RTOP) to fund signal operation improvements on regionally significant corridors and within major employment centers.

As a major employment center, the Perimeter area has been selected to receive \$2.78 million in RTOP funding over the next 3 years. This funding requires no local match and can be used to fund signal maintenance, timing improvements, equipment upgrades and system monitoring within the PCID boundary and on the major corridors leading into the PCID. The scope agreed to with GDOT is included as Attachment "B" and a map of the area to be covered by the agreement is included as Attachment "C". As requested by Council at the January 9th Meeting, the signal at Mount Vernon Road and Vermack Road has been added to the list of signals in Attachment "B".

PURPOSE

The participating local governments and the PCIDs have drafted the Memorandum of Agreement to facilitate receipt and administration of the funding. The agreement designates the City of Dunwoody as the project sponsor, designates the PCIDs as the project administrator and establishes a steering committee to oversee expenditures, signal timing implementation and project prioritization. The five person steering committee will be comprised of one representative of each local government and one member from each PCID. Upon execution of the agreement, the first task will be to select a traffic engineering consultant that will assess the condition and functionality of the entire signal system and develop a prioritized list of recommended maintenance issues, capital projects and timing improvements and their associated costs.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

I recommend approval of the Memorandum of Agreement contingent on final review by the City Attorney.